

(Private)

Richmond, Jan. 23, '37.

My Dear Friends,

It has been entirely out of my power to answer your kind favor of the 17th till to-day.

Between my office and my domicile, my whole time has been consumed—i.e. ever since my return to Richmond. At last, my poor wife seems to be better—and we begin to think we may yet conquer the disease, which is pronounced by the physicians cancer in her womb. She has had already a 5 months siege of it.

My hands are once more at work, but their "strike" has been a serious drawback as well as a great injury to me in a pecuniary point of view—one that will cost me months of hard labor to recover from.

By tomorrow night's mail I will send you rough sheets of Jan. No. in which you will find your article on the "Rights of Authors," though not in the part of the *Messenger* I promised you it should be placed in. This was, however, intended, I assure you, in no way as a mark of disrespect. But its getting where it now stands, was unavoidable, in consequence of arrangements which had been previously made by others—as well as the fact of my attentions being called from my office when it was made up. This, I hope, will be an ample apology on my part. You will nevertheless find yourself in both good and enlightened company. Yours come

believed Mrs. Ellett and Judge Hopkinson, — and
I am sure you could not have selected
better society any where.

Previous to writing you I had submitted
your manuscript to Mr. Poe, who handed it back
to me as being suitable for the Messenger. After
I had it put in type, I sent a corrected
proof of it to him. He returned it, as you
will see, making several corrections ~~in it~~, — and
amongst other things, striking out your first
paragraph as exclamation. He also struck out
your two concluding paragraphs — but I thought
them worth preserving — and therefore took upon
myself the "responsibility" of retaining them. I
have no doubt whatever, that Mr. Poe done
what he has done for the best. I hope moreover,
that ~~you~~ you will think so also. Be that
as it may, I assure you there was not the
slightest intention on my part (nor do I
believe there was on that of Mr. Poe's) to mar
your productions. I hope this ~~rapid~~ explana-
tion will be satisfactory to my friends.

Mr. Poe retired from the editorship of my
work on the 3d inst. I am once more at
the head of affairs. Nevertheless I have private
friends to whom I submit all articles — and
I have consented to abide by their judgment.

So soon as I can spare the time, I will
write to Mr. Willows. In the meantime, if you
can get me a patron do so, and I will send
you on the No 11 & 12 — to make up the set.
I have not a copy of Vol 1 or 2 on hand —

Please say to Mr. Coit (a gentleman) that as soon as I can purchase a copy of Vol. 1, I will do so, and send it to him.

Balance new play is handled without gloves, in this No. — The Review is from the pen of one of the first men in Virginia — an accomplished scholar and able jurist.

Let me beg you to read every article through in the ponderous No. I shall send you. — a No. of 96 pages, in which there are 10 or 12 pages of Harpaul — making the No. equal to 104 pages of Brewster — in which I really believe there is more reading than in any two volumes of one of our ordinary Noels, which sells at \$2.00.

Do read Paulding's "riot" with great care. It is fully equal to any thing that he has written. The Review of the "Partisan Leader" you ought to read with great care. Read the Liberty Man, and the last Chap. of his Biography. It is indeed a master production, and is from the pen of a practiced and first-rate leader. "The Study of the Law" is by a man of splendid abilities — so is "Our Partisan" — The Party in fact is all first-rate.

All I ask, or expect, of you is to do my work justice — regardless of consequences.

So soon as you can make collection, send me one or two — retaining, if you please, \$5 for the trouble you have been at.

I am in great friendly obsequy.

Your sincere friend, J. W. White.

Time out next Wednesday week at all legal cases
and me too are also expected to appear.

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Mr. William Scott,
Care of Saunders & Otley,
New York City.

